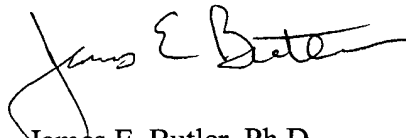


**REMARKS**

The specification has been amended to properly identify the application as a divisional application. The specification has also been amended to correct certain informalities. No new matter has been added.

Claim 21 has been amended to remove its dependency on cancelled claim 17. Support for new claim 44 can be found throughout the specification and in particular in the sections beginning on pages 35 and 41.

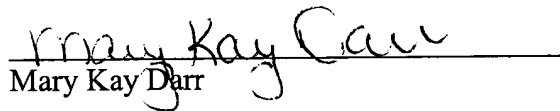
Respectfully submitted,



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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I certify that the foregoing Preliminary Amendment A is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail #EL615274325US, in an envelope addressed to: Box PATENT APPLICATION, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this 10th day of October, 2000.

  
Mary Kay Darr

JEB/mkd